

Remarks

Claims 1-23 are in the case. Claims 15, 16, and 20 stand rejected under a combination of U.S. Patent No. 4,611,948 to Johnson and 4,014,618 to Kristiansen. The rest of the claims stand allowed or objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but containing allowable subject matter.

Amendment to Claim 15

Claim 15 has been amended merely for grammatical purposes.

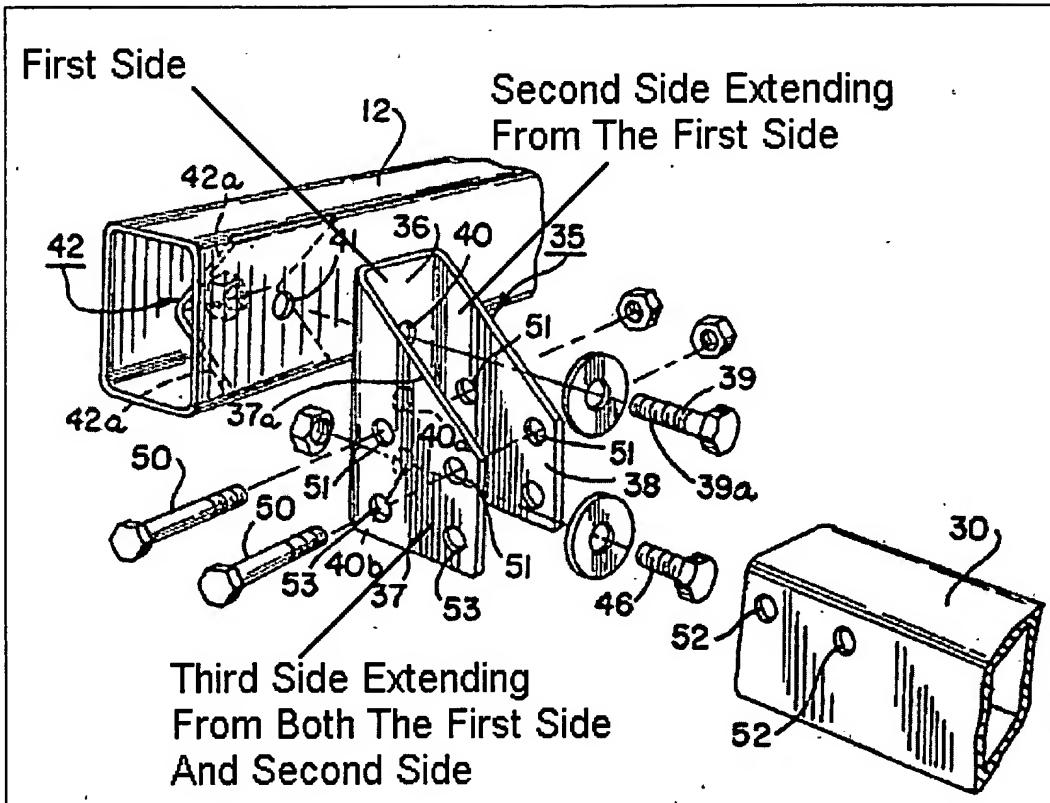
Rejection of Claims and Request for Reconsideration

The applicant traverses the rejection of claims 15, 16, and 20 for at least the following reasons.

In the Office Action of April 29, 2005, the Examiner asserts that Johnson comprises all the features of claim 15 except the feature of “said first side and said second side each [comprising] a plurality of projections on said outer surface.” The bracket of Johnson is reproduced below, with annotations of the Examiner’s assertions. As can be seen from the figure, the Examiner asserts that third side (37) extends from both the first side (36) and the second side (38). However, the applicant respectfully asserts that the third side of Johnson only extends from the first side. The applicant also respectfully requests that claims 15, 16, and 20 are allowable for at least this reason, as the combination of Johnson and Kristiansen do not teach this feature.



Figure 1 of Johnson with Annotations of the Examiner's Assertions



Moreover, the bracket of Johnson does not “[reinforce] the junction between an A-frame member and a cross member.” Rather, the bracket of Johnson attaches a cross-member to a longitudinal member. As such, the combination of Johnson and Kristiansen does not teach this feature, and claims 15, 16, and 20 are allowable for at least this further reason.

Further, the Examiner cites col. 3, ll. 39-40 for the proposition that element 20 is a flange. Element 20 is described as a “short tongue-to-boom” yoke. In a review of the Johnson patent, no reference to “20” was found in the drawings. The applicant suggests that element 19 in the drawings is the “short tongue-to-boom yoke” that is referred to as element 20 in the specification. Regardless, the applicant respectfully asserts that the “short tongue-to-boom”

yoke is not a "flange" extending from any of the frame members. As such, the applicant respectfully asserts that claim 18 is allowable for at least this further reason.

The applicant further notes that the A-Frame members of Johnson are not attached to the longitudinal member by bolts. Rather, they are seemingly formed monolithically with the longitudinal members. Claims 15 et al. should be allowable for at least this further reason, as the combination of prior art does references does not teach all of the claim limitations.

Based on the foregoing, the applicant respectfully asserts that all claims are allowable, and requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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